

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The background of study

In Indonesia, one of the foreign language which is studied is English language. It becomes the most popular language and the most widely spoken language all over the world. Also, it is used by most of people who have different language as well. Many people are interested in studying English because it is important part of human's life. As Jakarta Post Reported in year 2017 "English is a language that was particularly imposed on the rest of the world, mainly in British colonies. Since then, there has been tremendous development in terms of its varieties. With the growing number of speakers of English „abandoning“ standardized English, it seems that the English language no longer belongs (if it has ever belonged) to the Anglo-Saxons, but it has become the collectively property of diverse ethnicities in almost all countries". By these reasons, Indonesian government applies it as the first foreign language that should be studied by students. In the kindergarten level, students have been introduced to English language like saying "hi" or just speaking and remembering simple vocabularies. When students learn English language, they are focused on mastering four language skills: Listening, Writing, Reading, and Speaking.

In the process of understanding and mastering English language, writing ability is the most complicated and difficult enough to be learned. Students need hard thinking and have knowledge to produce words,

sentences, or paragraph with good structure and correct grammar at the same time. Caswell and Mahler (2004) define “Writing is a vehicle for communication and skill mandated in all aspects of life.” From this statement, we know that writing is important as the tool that uses to communicate with others by using written form. For example, when people wanted to send mail to someone, they use writing skill to write that mail. It means they have to have a good skill in writing. It also use in express feeling, argument, idea, etc. It means we have to pay attention to the rule of writing itself. Based on the previous studies, writer found in Afrin (2016) that there are many students still have problems in writing. The reasons are grammatical weakness, less practice, lack of motivation, and educational background.

Errors in foreign language teaching especially in English language are the cases which are difficult enough to avoid. It is include in grammatical error which is one of the reason students get problem in writing. Many aspects can cause the learners of English as a foreign language make errors and the use some parts of grammar such as in using articles *a*, *an*, and *the* become one of the caused. Master (1990) mention that the English article system is one of the most difficult aspects of English grammar for nonnative speakers and one of the latest to be acquired. Although, the use of articles have been studied since in Junior High School. Many people cannot master it well.

The previous study about analysis of articles usage was done by Latif Mashadi in 2013 entitled “A Descriptive Analysis on Students” Ability in

Using Articles (a, an, and the) in Eleventh Grade of MA Al-Bidayah Candi, Bandung in the Academic Year of 2011-2012” and Sholihatun in year 2017 entitled “An Error Analysis on The use of English Articles *a, an, and the* in Descriptive Texts Written By The Eight Grade Students of Smp Nurul Iman Palembang”. The focus of those study is to find out how far the students’ ability and what factors which influence the students’ ability in using article *a, an, and the*.

The difference between the writer’s study and the previous study is the method of collecting data. The previous study was collected data by using test. Meanwhile, the recent study used the result of writing exercise that has been collected by writing lecturer. Besides, the similarity of this study with the previous study is on the analysis of the data.

From this reason, the writer will describe about students ability to use grammar especially articles. Here, the writer will make a research study under title “AN ANALYSIS ON STUDENT’S ABILITY IN USING ARTICLES (A, AN AND THE) OF FIFTH SEMESTER OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT UNIVERSITY OF MUHAMMADIYAH MALANG”.

1.2 Research problem

- 1.3** What types of English article errors made by students of fifth semester of English Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang?
- 1.4** What is the frequency of occurrence made by students of fifth semester of English Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang?

1.3 Research Objectives

The objectives of the research are:

1. To classify the types of article errors made by students of fifth semester of English Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang?
2. To count the frequency of occurrence made by students of fifth semester of English Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang?

There is a term “learning by mistake”. We often hear that people make a lot of mistake in their part time and eventually be sukses in the future. It may be occurred in learning language or a target language.

1.4 Research Significance

The result of this study is expected to be useful for the readers as research related of the use of articles *a*, *an*, and *the*. It is also expected to know some common mistakes caused by the use of the articles. In addition, the result of this study is very important for the English teacher. It can help them in language teaching learning process. By studying the result of this study, hopefully the readers especially the students will understand more about using articles correctly.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The writer would like to limit this research on the types of English article errors and the frequency of occurrence made by students in fifth semester of seventh Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.6 Definition of Key terms

To avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation the title of this research, the writer would like to clarify and explain the terms used in this study as follows:

1. Writing

Writing is one of the parts of language skills beside listening, speaking, and reading.

2. Grammar

Grammar is a description of the structure of a language and the way in which linguistic units such as words and phrases are combined to produce sentences in the language.

3. Error Analysis

Error analysis is the study and analysis of the errors made by second language learners.

4. Article

Article is a word which used with a noun, and which shows whether the noun refers to something definite or something indefinite. The articles in the English language are a, an, and the.